

What is claimed is:
Patent Claims

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- 1 Method for switching data that are received via a packet-oriented data transmission link and are to be forwarded, whereby data packets (ATM-Z1, ATM-Z2) subdivided into sub-structure elements (SE) are established for a data transmission via the packet-oriented data transmission link, characterized in that an allocation of the data received via the packet-oriented data transmission link to channels of a timeslot-oriented data format TDM formed of a periodic sequence of channel-individual information segments is undertaken such by a conversion unit (UE) that the data allocated to a sub-structure element (SE) are allocated to at least one channel of the timeslot-oriented data format (TDM); in that a switching of the data converted into the timeslot-oriented data format ensues via a timeslot-oriented switching network module (KN); and in that the timeslot-oriented data are converted back into the packet-oriented data format and are transmitted via the packet-oriented data transmission link.
2. Method according to claim 1, characterized in that a data transmission via the packet-oriented data transmission link ensues according to the ATM data format (asynchronous transfer mode).
3. Method according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that a sub-structure element (SE) is reserved for the transmission of signaling information allocated to data transmitted via the packet-oriented data transmission link.
4. Method according to claim 3, characterized in that the received signaling information are communicated from the conversion unit (UE) to a control unit (STE) wherein the signaling information are converted into switching-oriented control data for the timeslot-oriented switching network module (KN).

~~5. Method according to one of the preceding claims, characterized in that filler cells (FZ) are inserted for an adaptation of the transmission bit rate deriving due to the arrival and the size of sub-structure elements (SE) to the transmission bit rate of a channel.~~

5 6. Method according to one of the claims 1 through 4, characterized in that filler data (FD) are inserted into a sub-structure element (SE) for an adaptation of the transmission bit rate deriving due to the arrival and the size of sub-structure elements (SE) to the transmission bit rate of a channel.

10 7. Method according to claim 6, characterized in that an information about the plurality of payload data communicated in the channel and an information about the plurality of filler data (FD) ~~communicated in the channel is transmitted~~ for each channel.

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